

Saturday May 24, 2025

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DOGE targets Census Bureau, worrying data users about health of U.S. data infrastructure

By MIKE SCHNEIDER **Associated Press**

The group launched by Elon Musk to cut federal spending in the second Trump administration is targeting some U.S. Census Bureau surveys it claims are "wasteful," worrying users of federal data who are already concerned about the health of the nation's statistical infrastructure.

The Department of Government Efficiency said on social media this week that five surveys costing \$16.5 million that are conducted by the statistical agency for other federal agencies have been "terminated." It didn't specify which ones. The DOGE post said some of the questions on the eliminated surveys asked about alcohol consumption and the frequency of home internet use.

Other surveys are being reviewed "one-by-one," said Tuesday's post on DOGE's X account. The Census Bureau didn't respond this week to an inquiry seeking comment.

Based on the post, it's highly possible that the eliminated surveys included the Survey of Inmates in Local Jails, which gathered information on inmates for the Department of Justice,



A census taker carries a briefcase as she knocks on the door of a residence in Winter Park, Fla., Aug. 11, 2020.

Associated Press

and the Ask U.S. Panel, an internet survey conducted with the Department of Defense, said Beth Jarosz, a senior program director at the Population Reference Bureau, a nonpartisan research organization.

There is a public process for changing government surveys that involves giving notice and seeking public comment, and anything that is canceled without going through that process may be violating the law, Jarosz said.

"These data belong to the

public," Jarosz said. "The taxpayers paid for the data and they should get the data unless they don't want it to be collected anymore."

The Census Bureau asks the public survey questions in order to help Congress and federal agencies implement laws or develop policies, said Terri Ann Lowenthal, a former congressional staffer who consults on census issues.

"Just picking isolated questions doesn't make any point DOGE has intended to make, which is, I guess, that the Census Bureau isn't doing serious work or necessary work, which they are," Lowenthal said. "I think that tweet suggests the DOGE staff has very little knowledge about data collection and the set purpose of the Census Bureau's mission."

The bigger concern is whether the Census Bureau is going to be ready for test run-throughs next year of the once-a-decade census, given federal government hiring freezes by the

Trump administration and public silence from the bureau about the schedule, Lowenthal said.

Tests next year for the 2030 census are slated for six places: western Texas; tribal lands in Arizona: Colorado Springs, Colorado; western North Carolina; Spartanburg, South Carolina; and Huntsville, Alabama. The census is used to determine how many congressional seats each state gets and helps guide the distribution of \$2.8 trillion in annual federal funding. "The time lost in planning for a census can't be made up easily, if at all," Lowenthal said. "The timeline of a census is very tight.

Each step builds upon what has been done previously." Researchers and users of federal data are grappling with broader concerns about the health of the U.S. statistical system, given disruptions to federal agencies by DOGE. canceled or frozen contracts and the departures of longtime staffers with vast institutional knowledge, Georgetown professor Amy O'Hara, president of the Association of Public Data Users, said during a recent online forum.

Inmate manages to escape from a Louisiana jail for the second time in a year

By JEFF MARTIN **Associated Press**

A Louisiana jail inmate who escaped from a parish jail about a year ago has ac-

complished the same feat again, authorities said.

Tra'Von Johnson, 19, made his latest escape Thursday from the Tangipahoa Parish



This 2018 photo shows Tangipahoa Parish Jail in Amite City, La. **Associated Press**

Jail, which has a history of jailbreaks involving a halfdozen inmates in recent years, the sheriff's office announced. Johnson had been awaiting a trial for his alleged role in a home invasion that left a man killed and a child injured, authorities said.

Authorities say they became suspicious when the sheriff's office said. a member of the public In the summer of 2024, Johncalled the sheriff's office shortly before 10 p.m. Thursday, questioning whether Johnson was still in custody. "Following an immediate headcount of the jail population and a review of Johnson's movements throughout the day, it was deter-

mined Johnson escaped around 4:30 p.m. when another inmate helped lift him over the perimeter fence," the sheriff's office said in a statement.

Law officers are now searching for Johnson and also contacting victims and reaching out to Johnson's relatives and associates,

son was among a group of four inmates who escaped from the jail over the Memorial Day weekend by crawling under a gap in a wall and then scaling two razor-wire fences. Three of the escapees including Johnson were captured

within days, but it took six months to apprehend the fourth fugitive.

Manpower shortages, inadequate staff training and experience, a lack of supervision and insufficient head counts contributed to the escape last year, authorities said at the time.

In 2017, two brothers being held on charges that included attempted murder escaped from the jail's exercise yard and were recaptured the next day, WBRZ-TV reported at the

Tangipahoa Parish's jail in Amite is about 75 miles (120 kilometers) northwest of New Orleans.



Vance says Trump will use U.S. military decisively rather than in 'open-ended conflicts' of the past

By MICHELLE L. PRICE **Associated Press** ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP)

Vice President JD Vance told military academy graduates Friday that President Donald Trump is working to ensure that U.S. armed forces are only sent into harm's way with clear goals rather than the "undefined missions" and "open-ended conflicts" of the past.

Vance, in a commencement address at the U.S. Naval Academy, said Trump's approach "doesn't mean that we ignore threats but means that we approach them with discipline and if we send you to war, we do it with a very specific set of goals in mind."

Vance said the alternative under Trump will be quicker-hit military actions, pointing to the bombing that Trump recently ordered then paused to uncertain effect against Houthis rebels in Yemen.

"That's how miliary power should be used," he said. "Decisively with a clear objective."

Vance, in his first remarks as vice president to one of the military service academies,



U.S. Naval Academy midshipmen stand during the academy's graduation and commissioning ceremony at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., Friday, May 23, 2025.

Associated Press

also spoke briefly about his own military service as he addressed the 1,049 graduates in Annapolis' class of 2025, most of them newly commissioned ensigns and second lieutenants.

The Ohio native enlisted in the Marine Corps after high school and served four years, doing a tour in Iraq and working as a military journalist.

Vance appeared to criticize the Iraq War as he spoke of Trump's shift in approach, seeming to refer to the mission he served in when he said: "How hard could it be to build a few democracies in the Middle East? Well, almost impossibly hard, it turns out. And unbelievably costly."

Vance also criticized a Biden administration effort to build a pier in Gaza to accept aid in Israel's war with Hamas there, which he suggested never worked.

"The Trump administration has reversed course," Vance said. "No more undefined missions. No more open-ended conflicts."

He added, "We ought to be cautious in deciding to throw a punch, but when we throw a punch, we throw a punch hard, and we do it decisively. And that's exactly what we may ask you to do."

Looking ahead to Memorial Day, the vice president noted "it is not a happy day" and is "not for those who served and came home. It is for those who served and didn't."

"Every Memorial Day, I think about a graduate of this institution, Major Megan Mc-Clung," Vance said. "She was an officer I served with who was bright, tough and incredibly dedicated to her job."

He said McClung arrived in Iraq not long before he did and was killed not long after that.

"She loved this institution," Vance said. "And, like so many who came before her, she built on its legacy in the way that she served her country."

McClung, 34, was a military relations officer who was killed by a roadside bomb in Ramadi in December 2006. She was the first female Marine officer to be killed in the U.S.-led war in Iraq and the first female Naval Academy graduate killed in action.

California utility to pay \$82 million settlement in lawsuit stemming from huge 2020 wildfire

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A California utility has agreed to pay the federal government \$82.5 million stemming from an enormous 2020 wildfire that churned through mountains northeast of Los Angeles and into the Mojave Desert, officials said Friday.

The U.S. Justice Department announced the payment by Southern California Edison on Thursday, U.S. ment provides "meaningful compensation to taxpayers for the extensive costs of fighting the ... fire and for the widespread damage to public lands." Edison agreed to pay the settlement within 60

days of its effective date, May 14, without admitting wrongdoing or fault, prosecutors said.

Utility spokesperson Diane Castro said, "Our hearts are with the people who were affected by the Bobcat Fire. We are pleased to have resolved this matter and will continue to advance wildfire mitigation measures."

The settlement stemmed Attorney Bill Essayli said in a from a 2023 lawsuit filed statement that the settle- by federal prosecutors on behalf of the U.S. Forest Service against Edison and Utility Tree Service to recover costs from fighting the so-called Bobcat Fire and for the extensive damage that it caused to the Angeles National Forest.

The government alleged that the fire ignited when trees that were not properly maintained by the utility and its tree maintenance contractor came into contact with power lines. Damage from the fire closed campgrounds and more than 100 miles (161 kilometers) of trails for years and harmed habitat for the federally endangered wildlife-mountain yellowlegged frog and federally threatened fish and birds, the government said.

"These resources will help us rehabilitate burned areas, restore wildlife habitats and strengthen our forests' resilience to future wildfires," said Deputy Forest Supervisor Tony Martinez of the Angeles National Forest. The fire charred about 178 square miles (461 square kilometers). Last year, the utility agreed to pay \$80 million to settle

claims on behalf of the U.S. Forest Service connected to a massive wildfire that destroyed more than a thousand homes and other structures in 2017.



Members of a Los Angeles County Fire crew make a stand to protect a home from the advancing Bobcat Fire along Cima Mesa Rd. Friday, Sept. 18, 2020, in Juniper Hills, Calif.



Federal judge blocks Trump administration from barring foreign student enrollment at Harvard

By COLLIN BINKLEY **Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge on Friday blocked the Trump administration from cutting off Harvard's enrollment of foreign students, an action the Ivy League school decried as unconstitutional retaliation for defying the White House's political demands.

In its lawsuit filed earlier Friday in federal court in Boston, Harvard said the government's action violates the First Amendment and will have an "immediate and devastating effect for Harvard and more than 7,000 visa holders."

"With the stroke of a pen, the government has sought to erase a quarter of Harvard's student body, international students who contribute significantly to the University and its mission," Harvard said in its suit. "Without its international students, Harvard is not Harvard."

The temporary restraining order was granted by U.S. District Judge Allison Burroughs.



A sculler rows down the Charles River near Harvard University, at rear, Tuesday, April 15, 2025, in Cambridge, Mass.

Associated Press

The Trump administration move has thrown campus into disarray days before graduation. Harvard said in the suit. International students who run labs, teach courses, assist professors and participate in Harvard sports are now left deciding whether to transfer or risk losing legal status to stay in the country, according to the filing.

The impact is heaviest at graduate schools such as the Harvard Kennedy School, where almost half the student body comes from abroad, and Harvard Business School, which is about one-third international.

Along with its impact on current students, the move

blocks thousands of students who were planning to come for summer and fall classes.

Harvard said it immediately puts the school at a disadvantage as it competes for the world's top students. Even if it regains the ability to host students, "future applicants may shy away from applying out of fear of further reprisals from the government," the suit said. If the government's action stands, Harvard said, the university would be unable to offer admission to new international students for at least the next two academic years. Schools that have that certification withdrawn by the federal government are ineligible to reapply until one year afterward, Harvard said.

Harvard enrolls almost 6,800 foreign students at its campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Most are graduate students and they come from more than 100 countries.

The Department of Homeland Security announced the action Thursday, accusing Harvard of creating an unsafe campus environment by allowing "anti-American. pro-terrorist agitators" to assault Jewish students on campus. It also accused Harvard of coordinating with the Chinese Communist Party, contending the school had hosted and trained members of a Chinese paramilitary group as recently as 2024.

Venezuelan workers at Disney put on leave from jobs after losing protective status

By MIKE SCHNEIDER **Associated Press** ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Almost four dozen Venezuelan workers who had temporary protected status have been put on leave

by Disney after the U.S. Su-

preme Court allowed the

Trump administration to strip them of legal protec-

The move was made to make sure that the employees were not in violation of the law, Disney said in a statement Friday.

The 45 workers across the

company who were put on leave will continue to get benefits.

"We are committed to protecting the health, safety, and well-being of all our employees who may be navigating changing immigration policies and how they could impact them or their families," the statement said.

About two-thirds of the workers were in union jobs. The union contract for Walt Disney World service workto be reinstated without loss of seniority or benefits once they provide proper work authorization within a year of losing their jobs, said Julee Jerkovich, secretary-treasurer of the United Food And CommerUnion's Local 1625.

"It's very distressing," Jerkovich said Friday. "Disney is being made to be the bad guy, but they didn't have any choice." Disney would have been criticized if the workers weren't put on leave, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents made raids at Disney World, she said.

The Supreme Court's order on Monday put on hold a ruling from a federal judge ers in Florida allows them in San Francisco that kept in place Temporary Protected Status for the Venezuelans that would have otherwise expired last month. The justices provided no rationale, which is common in emergency appeals.

cial Workers International The order potentially ex-

poses as many as 350,000 Venezuelans to deportation. The status allows people already in the United States to live and work legally because their native countries are deemed unsafe for return due to natural disaster or civil strife.

The case was the latest in a string of emergency appeals President Donald Trump's administration has made to the Supreme Court, many of them related to immigration and involving Venezuela. Earlier this month, the government asked the court to allow it to end humanitarian parole for hundreds of thousands of immigrants from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela, setting them up for potential deportation as well.



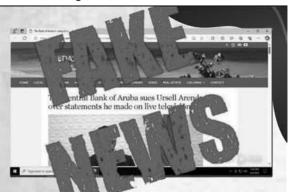
People visit the Magic Kingdom Park at Walt Disney World Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., April 18, 2022.

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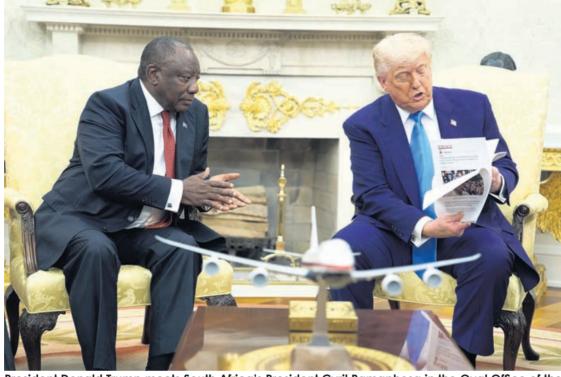
South Africa police minister says Trump 'twisted' facts to push baseless genocide claims

By GERALD IMRAY and MICHELLE GUMEDE **Associated Press** JOHANNESBURG (AP) -

South Africa's top law enforcement official said Friday that U.S. President Donald Trump wrongly claimed that a video he showed in the Oval Office was of burial sites for more than 1,000 white farmers and he "twisted" the facts to push a false narrative about mass killings of white people in his country.

Police Minister Senzo Mchunu was talking about a video clip that was played during the meeting between Trump and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa at the White House on Wednesday that showed an aerial view of a rural road with lines of white crosses erected on either

"Now this is very bad," Trump said as he referred to the clip that was part of a longer video that was to pay love on a Sunday 2020 to protest the killings of farm, Mchunu said.



President Donald Trump meets South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa in the Oval Office of the White House, Wednesday, May 21, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

played in the meeting. morning."

"These are burial sites, right Mchunu said the crosses here. Burial sites, over a did not mark graves or thousand, of white farmers, burial sites, but were a temand those cars are lined up porary memorial put up in

all farmers across South Africa. They were put up during a funeral procession for a white couple who were killed in a robbery on their

A son of the couple who were killed and a local community member who took part in the procession also said the crosses do not represent burial sites and were taken down after the protest.

South Africa struggles with extremely high levels of violent crime, although farm killings make up a small percentage of the country's overall homicides. Both white and Black farmers are attacked, and sometimes killed, and the government has condemned the violence against both groups.

Whites make up around 7% of South Africa's 62 million people but generally still have a much better standard of living than the Black majority more than 30 years after the end of the apartheid system of racial segregation. Whites make up the majority of the country's wealthier commercial farmers.

A stabbing at Hamburg's central train station causes multiple injuries. A woman is arrested

BERLIN (AP) — A stabbing attack at the busy central train station in the German city of Hamburg left mulof them in life-threatening in total four of them with condition, authorities said. A woman was arrested as other six with serious injuries the suspect.

people on the platform reported. between tracks 13 and 14 in the station at around 6 p.m., according to police. The station in downtown Hamburg, Germany's second-biggest city, is a major hub for local, regional and long-distance trains.

Police said that "several" people had life-threatenspecific figures.

Late Friday evening, Hamburg's fire service said life-threatening injuries, anand seven with light injuries, The attacker targeted German news agency dpa

> Police said a 39-year-old woman, a German national, was arrested at the scene without putting up resistance and that they believe after watching video footage that she acted alone.

They secured the knife. There was no immediate

ing injuries, but didn't give indication of any political motive, and investigators were looking into whether the suspect may have tiple people injured, some that 17 people were hurt been mentally ill, police spokesperson Florian Abbenseth said.

A high-speed ICE train with its doors open was still at the platform hours after the attack, but Abbenseth said that it was not a crime scene.

Railway operator Deutsche Bahn said it was "deeply shocked" by the attack. Four tracks at the station were closed Friday evening, and some long-distance trains were delayed or diverted.

Carrying weapons, includ- station and on local trans-

ing knives, is banned at the port in Hamburg.



Investigators work at Hamburg, Germany's Central Station on Friday, May 23, 2025, after several people were injured in a knife



China criticizes U.S. ban on Harvard's international students

By HUIZHONG WU and **RAJESH ROY Associated Press**

BANGKOK (AP) — The Chinese government said Friday that the Trump administration's move to ban international students from Harvard would harm America's international standina, as anxious students and parents overseas fretted over what would come next.

Among the two largest parts of the international student community in Harvard are Chinese and Indian students. The university enrolled 6,703 international students across all of its schools in 2024, according to the school's data, with 1,203 of those from China and 788 from India.

The Trump administration's move, announced Thursday, was a hot topic on Chinese social media. State broadcaster CCTV questioned whether the U.S. would remain a top destination for foreign students, noting Harvard was already suing the U.S. government in court.

"But with the long litigation period, thousands of international students may have trouble waiting," the CCTV commentary said.



In this image taken from video, China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning speaks during a regular briefing held in Beijing, Friday, May 23, 2025.

Associated Press

It went on to say that it becomes necessary for international students to consider other options "when policy uncertainty becomes the norm."

with the U.S. is mutually beneficial and China opposes its politicization, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said at a daily briefing in Beijing.

"The relevant actions by

the U.S. side will only damage its own image and international credibility," she

She added that China would firmly protect the Educational cooperation rights and interests of Chinese students and scholars abroad but she didn't offer any details on how it would do so in this situation.

> Indian authorities say they currently assessing the impact of the U.S. order on

Indian students who are already enrolled with Harvard, as well as those aspiring to study there in future, but have not issued any statements of criticism.

Chinese students in U.S. previous point of tension The issue of Chinese students studying overseas has long been a point of tension in the relationship with the United States. During Trump's first term, China's Ministry of Education warned students about rising rejections rates and shorter terms for visas in the

Last year, the Chinese foreign ministry protested that a number of Chinese students had been interrogated and sent home upon arrival at U.S. airports.

Chinese state media has long played up gun violence in the U.S. and portrayed America as a dangerous place. Some Chinese students are opting to study in the U.K. or other countries rather than the U.S.

Meanwhile, two universities in Hong Kong extended invites to affected students. The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology said it would welcome international students already at Harvard and those who have been admitted in a statement Friday. City University in Hong Kong did as well without mentioning Harvard by name.

Some people in China joked online about having the university open a branch in the northeastern Chinese city of Harbin, whose name shares the same character as Harvard's name in Chinese.

Lebanon starts process to disarm Palestinian factions in refugee camps

By ABBY SEWELL **Associated Press**

BEIRUT (AP) — A group tasked with making a plan to remove weapons held by Palestinian factions

in Lebanon's refugees camps met for the first time Friday to begin hashing out a timetable and mechanism for disarming the groups.



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, centre, leaves after his meeting with Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, left background, in Beirut, Lebanon, Thursday, May 22, 2025. **Associated Press**

The Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee, a government body that serves as an interlocutor between Palestinian refugees and officials, said the meeting was attended by Prime Minister Nawaf Salam and that "participants agreed to launch a process for the disarmament of weapons according to a specific timetable."

The group added that it also aimed to take steps to and social rights of Palestinian refugees."

A Lebanese official familiar with the discussions, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment, said work to remove the weapons would begin within a month.

The meeting followed a visit by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to Lebanon, during which he and Lebanese President Joseph Aoun announced an agreement that Palestinian factions would not use Lebanon as a launchpad for any attacks against Israel, and that weapons would be consolidated under the authority of the Lebanese government.

"enhance the economic There are multiple Palestinian factions active in Lebanon's refugee camps, which include Abbas' Fatah movement, the rival Hamas group and a range of other Islamist and leftist groups. The 12 Palestinian refugee camps aren't un-

der the control of Lebanese authorities, and rival groups have clashed inside the camps in recent years, inflicting casualties and affecting nearby areas. Hamas and allied Palestinian groups also fought alongside the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah against Israel in Lebanon in a war that ended with a ceasefire in November. Hezbollah has been under increasing pressure to give up its own weapons since then.lhsan Ataya, a member of the political bureau of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad group, which is allied with Hamas, said in a statement that his group "adheres to the laws of the host country and respects applicable laws."



Why You Should Not Miss Aruba's Free City Center Street Car Tour

ORANJESTAD - Aruba's City Center Street Car - or as we call it in Dutch; "Tram van Oranjestad' - is a single track tram line in Oranjestad, the capital city of Aruba. It was inaugurated on 22 December 2012, being the first and so far the only passenger rail service on Aruba and the rest of the Dutch Caribbean. There are two trolleys, a single-deck one with 42 seats and a double-decker with 64 seats. The line was inspired by the popular battery-powered streetcar operation at the Grove in Los Angeles, USA. Aruba's streetcars are powered by hydrogen fuel cells, which are charged by the island's year-round trade winds.

Caya Betico Croes, mostly referred to as our "main street" has been developed into a pollution-free pedestrian mall. The double-decker offers you a 360 degree view of the down town area with a picture perfect scenery of the island's clear blue skies. Who would not enjoy a ride on this beautiful and naturally air-conditioned vehicle? The tour consists of a total of 9 stops approximately 200 meters apart from each other; all stops are clearly marked. The tram will bring you close to different museums, historical plazas, monuments, the Protestant church, Aruba's high- end mall, retail shops, and a variety of local and

international cuisine restaurants. The "I love Aruba" trademark also belongs to that list. The third stop on the route is close to a 5-minute walk to the famous Renaissance Marina showcasing luxurious yachts and Aruba's blue waters.

The "Tram van Oranjestad" starts from a balloon loop near the Port of Call and serves the downtown area and ends at Plaza Nicky. The first ride starts at 10:00 am sharp with intervals of 25minutes. The last trolley departs from the cruise port at 5:00pm. Don't miss this tour of the beautiful Aruba's City Center—it is free for all!



Aruban snacks and where to find them



ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change? How about some Aruban snacks that you can find all around the island? Hop in your car, and go to these locations to find some of the most popular and tasty snacks that are beloved by our locals.



One of the staples of Aruban cuisine and snacks is the Pastechi. Pastechi is a Caribbean fried pastry that is filled with cheese, meat, chicken, veggies and sometimes even fish! Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, locally called a "kroket," which is a crusty fried snack with typically a meat and dough mix filling. The Aruban kroket is based on its Dutch counterpart, the "bitterbal".

These two snacks are typically found in all local snack trucks, which can be found all over the island, including on the side of the main road that stretches from San Nicolas to the Hotel Area. You can also find pastechis and krokets at local bakeries and snack shops, like Bright Bakery in Piedra Plat, Huchada in Santa Cruz or Pastechi House in the city center. These places may also sell other snacks and sandwiches too, perfect for on-the-road lunch break.

While you're at it, why not accompany your snack with a refreshing "batido"? Batidos are fruit shakes, typically made with added milk for some creaminess. However, you can also ask to hold the milk. Batidos are commonly found in snack shops too. You may find some batido shops next the flee markets downtown, or if you're on your way to San Nicolas, at Mauchi Smoothies and Juice Bar in Savaneta (located at the side of the main road).

If you are looking for something a bit more fresh and healthy, why not try some coconuts, or shaved ice from local vendors? These vendors carry their little shop at the back of their truck, so they are ever-moving around the island. However, there are a few spots where you can almost always find a coconut/shaved ice vendor:

- 1. Right next to the Red Anchor in San Nicolas, on the way to Baby Beach.
- 2. Along the main road next to the airport field.
- 3. At the California Light House.
- 4. At the Alto Vista Chapel.

These vendors may also sell other delights, like the beloved coconut-based dessert "cocada" or peanuts. All in all, in Aruba, you can always find some place to take a break and have a bite of something local, you maybe just might have to look for them!

Photo credit: wheninaruba.com





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Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard
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Aruba's kite flying tradition



(Oranjestad)—Every year for King's Day, Arubans gather with friends and family to fly kites. Big or small, paper or plastic, blue skies fill up with these colorful flying contraptions, brightening our yearly celebration of the Dutch Monarch.

The tradition of flying kites starts at home in the weeks leading up to King's Day. These kites were traditionally made with things found in the nearby mondi* and in the kitchen at home. Using

dried up cactus sticks for the frame, old news papers, and glue made from flour, water and salt to dry faster (some people even use cornstarch slurry as glue), kids usually make their own kites with their friends, parents or other close family members. Tails are made



from old bed sheets, ripped and tied together to create a long string of fabric trailing behind the back end of the kite. To finish off the process, people used fish lines or thin rope to tie three corners of the kite together. Another long string of rope is tied in the knotted center and bundled up, used to steer the kite as it flies in the air. Decorating the kite was especially important, and children would use paint to create their own designs the more colorful, the bet-



People usually fly their kites in big open fields, like empty soccer and baseball would battle

the sun is at its brightest.

In the past few years, kite

fields found all around the

island around noon, when

flying has become a sport in which groups of people would battle against each other to see whose kite is the biggest, the prettiest, and whose could fly flawlessly and longer in the air.



Feeling parched? Grab refreshment by the side of the road!



(Oranjestad)—Touring the island in the blistering heat can leave one feeling rather thirsty and looking to cool off. Luckily there are a few stands along the roads of Aruba that can offer you just what you need: a nice, refreshing beverage!

These "coconut stands" can be found at several locations on the island, where you can cool off with delicious smoothies, drinks, snacks, and of course, fresh coconuts! Perfect during family outings around the island, these stands can be found in the following locations:

- Near the red Anchor in San Nicolas
- On the Linear Park in Oranjestad (in front of airport runway)
- At the California Light House hill
- Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin
- Bushiribana Beach (Near the Ling & Song Supermarket)



LOCAL A9 SATURDAY 24 MAY 2025

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Today is going to be a good day

(Oranjestad)—Here's why: Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.

Nature Calls



The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots. The guided tours are even free of charge. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In Total the park consists of 7907 acres protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whiptail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center. For more information, visit the website www.arubanationalpark.org

Philip's Animal Garden

To stay with the animals, let's hop to an amazing place. Something different to do, an experience that is to be enjoyed by people of all ages. Welcome to Philip's Animal Garden. We are not talking about a zoo here, this is actually a sanctu-

ary for all types of creatures, from horses to peacocks, kangaroos to turtles, monkeys, goats, and many, many more different species. The place was founded in 2009 and it is the only organization rescuing and rehabilitating exotic animals in Aruba, which has resulted in an amazing collection of these animals. They provide a suitable living environment for all the rescued animals. Up until now the owner, Philip, has built this shelter with his own efforts; building all the cages from scratch, designing all structures and welding them with his own bare hands. His goal is to upgrade the facilities to a world-class animal shelter with veterinary care and round-the-clock staffs. With the input from the Aruban community and visitors they provide the best care for these animals. Please check out their website for more information: www.philipsanimalgarden.com.

The Lighthouse

No, you would not think of this as a hidden gem. The California Lighthouse is actually one of the most known highlights in Aruba and many repeated guests most probably took the ride uphill already. But, there is a significant change to this tower. Since September 2016 you can climb the top. In 2015 Stichting Monumentenfonds started the restoration of the California Lighthouse. The project finished in September 2016 and the Lighthouse is now open for visitors to enjoy the beautiful view from the top. The construction of the California Lighthouse started in 1915. The name 'California' came from a vessel of the West India Company and Pacific Steamship Co. called 'California' that shipwrecked in the area in 1891. Therefore they came up with the idea of building a lighthouse that could indicate the island's eastern tip to ships with its light. www.arubalighthouse. com will give you more information.

Kayak in the Mangroves

Mangel Halto at Savaneta is definitely a place not to miss out on. The beautiful beach with the natural mangroves is simply a beauty, but if you are into a more active way to enjoy the nature: take a kayak. While you are doing some workout -as it might get a little windy and rough-, you will see the island from a different perspective. You can even make a stop to do some snorkeling at the reef. Its fun, it's healthy and for sure something else. There are several companies that offer kayak tours, we had good experience with The Shack Kayak Tours Aruba, find them on Facebook.



Take an "off-road" sightseeing tour

A must-do activity on the island is for sure taking an off-road sightseeing tour. If you have a rented car, you can drive through the north-eastern side of Aruba and explore the natural pools, caves, rock formations and gorgeous view of the Atlantic Ocean. To access most of these sights, like the natural pool (Conchi) and the Guadirikiri and Fontein caves, you must enter through the Arikok National Park and buy a day pass. Then you drive up the rugged road that leads you through the white dunes, caves and along the wind turbines. Other locations, like the Ayo and Casibari Rock formation are situated more in the center of the island, and are free for guests, 24 hours a day.

Go for a shopping spree in the city center

Need a new bathing suit? Head to the city center of Oranjestad, where there is countless of different stores—both high end and more affordable—that can offer you the service you deserve! Local shopping stores often offer a more affordable price, and have a variety of clothes, shoes, bathing suites, purses and more. Along the Royal Plaza strip, there are numerous jewelry stores with great quality jewelry. In the Renaissance mall, you can shop high-end luxury brands, like Dolce & Gabbana, Kate Spade, Louis Vuitton and more. Around the high-rise hotel area near Palm Beach, the Paseo Herencia Mall contain a variety of shopping stores, restaurants, small food stands and even a movie theater!





Monuments in Oranjestad: Town House and Cas Veneranda

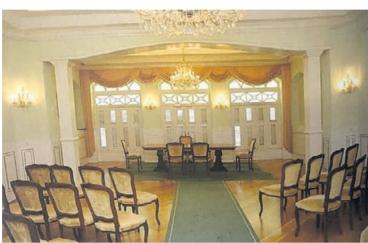
(Oranjestad)—If you've ever taken a stroll through main street Oranjestad, you may have stumbled upon a big green house with beautiful colonial design. This legendary house, now used as a town hall for civil marriages, was once owned by a wealthy doctor and formed part of the elite neighborhood in Oranjestad.

Jacobo Eloy Arends was an Aruban physician, and in lived in Oranjestad during the 1920s. In 1922, he married Maria Monica Lacle, the daughter of wellknown business man at the time, Adriaan Lacle. The two lived a posh life in the city center, and their mansion—once the center for neighborhood parties now serves as a public town hall for civil marriages and is a cultural monument on the island.

The house was designed by architect Chibi Wever, and constructed under the leadership of famous master carpenter, Dada Picus, who was famous at the time for his construction of beautiful buildings.

The construction of the house started once Jacobo and Maria got engaged. It is said that during the time of construction, Maria was not allowed to see the building nor be anywhere near the construction site. It wasn't until after her honeymoon that she saw the completed mansion for the first time, furnished entirely by her sisters-in-law.







tained the doctor's office,
The mansion also con- as well as a pharmacy. Af-



ter the death of Jacobo, the house was inherited by his son, an Aruban dentist, who converted Jacobo's office into his own dental practice. Over the years, the house was rented and used by third parties, but eventually fell into disrepair, as the maintenance cost became too high to cover.

The land was sold to Land Aruba in 1986, but it did not see a renovation until 1997. Nowadays, it serves to host weddings, and is attached to a modern building situated behind—the Aruban census office.

Jacobo and Maria's mansion was situated in front of another famous mansion, owned by Jacobo's brother Frederico Maximiliaan (Machi) Arends. Frederico was married to Veneranda (whom the mansion was named after). Their house was also constructed by Dada Picus, utilizing Veneranda's design vision that was inspired by a house she saw in Cartagena, Colombia.

Nowadays, this mansion lies in ruins. However, the



Aruban government announced its official restoration last year, with the most recent renovations including the roof. In collaboration with the Aruban government, the goal is to convert this monument into a governmental office and public space for visitors of Oranjestad.

Source and pictures credited to: "De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)" by Evert Bongers. Some pictures provided by the Monument Fund of Aruba.



Aruba to me



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Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@ arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

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LOCAL A11 SATURDAY 24 MAY 2025

Aruba: the legend behind its name

(Oranjestad)—Most folkloric tales and legends in Aruba revolve around our indigenous ancestors, who came from mainland Venezuela, and discovered the island and made it into their new home. This particular legend tells the story of the birth of the Aruba name.

The legend follows the life of Arua, an indigenous Cacique originally from Aroa in the Falcon state in Venezuela in the year 50 AD. Arua had a son around the year 70 AD with his wife Shira, who they named Corobori. When Corobori was old enough, he joined his father on the usual boat trip to the islands of Curacao and Bonaire to gather salt.

On their way back to Mainland Venezuela, they were caught up in a heavy rain storm—a side effect from a passing, but far away, hurricane. Of course, because of the lack of motors and sail, their boat was left in the mercy of the heavy winds. After a while, the storm started to pass, and the clouds began to clear up. Finally able to see around them, the Cacique spotted land approximately an hour away. So, they started to row in that direction until they reached the coast.

Once they arrived on what they thought was Venezuela, they decided to stay the night and fix their kayak. The next morning, the Cacique ordered his son and a few warriors to go find any sign of population in the area: "Corobori," Arua said. "Don't come back without news. It's in your hands how long we stay here till we find our family. So, if you need to take a week to gather information, we will wait for you."

"Don't worry," Corobori replied. "As soon as we have any information, we will let you know." Armed with arrows and spears, backpacks filled with food and water containers, they set off. They climbed several small hills, but no sign of a village. They crossed different dry riverbeds, but no sign of anything. When the sun finally descended, they found themselves near a fairly tall hill and decided to climb it for a better view of a village. This hill was called Pan Dushi or Orcuyo, which today we call Hooiberg.

The next morning, they could clearly see that they have landed on an island, but an unfamiliar one at that. When Corobori went back to where his father was waiting, he told him the news: "Father Arua, you have just discovered an island, but it is not Curacao or Bonaire. Far in the south, we saw the big mountains of our homeland Venezuela, which we could have never seen on the other island. This leads us to believe we are on a new island. But that's not all. When the sun came up, we saw in the distance a glowing plain, which we think may be salt."

The Cacique was pleased to hear of his son's findings. He decided to stay a couple days on the newly-discovered island in search for salt. The next morning they ascended Hooiberg again and stayed to see if they could find nearby smoke, indicating an inhabitant village. But they found nothing. So they went back to their initial arrival settlement, now known as Santo Largo in Savaneta. The next morning they hiked along the Spaans Lagoen near the Mangel Halto Beach and reached the area of Bushiri. There, they boarded they kayaks and heading to what we know now as Malmok, where they found rocks of salt. After a couple days of exploring the island and gathering some salt rocks, they left for Venezuela, where they were reunited with their families.

Throughout the year, they travelled back and forth to Aruba, collecting salt. After a while they settled on the island, generations of families living along the coast. Corobori was the first indigenous inhabitant in our history to explore the entirety of the island.

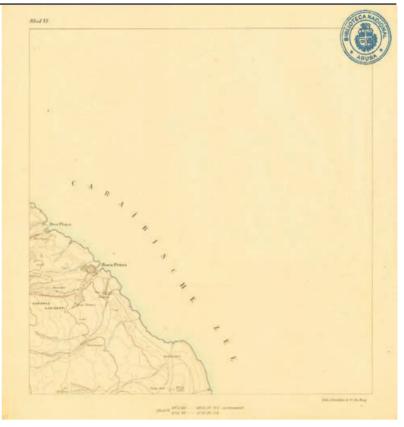
Arua, after decades as the leader of his tribe, spent his last days on the island. Having reached 80 years old, he called for his family on his death bed. In his hammock, he said: "My children, many years have passed, and I've asked my warrior to bring me back to the island so I can laid to rest. The God of living has given me the gift of life to see my son, grandchildren and great grandchildren. But now he is calling me home. Corobori, my torch is now passed to you. Guide our people, and be the leader you were always meant to become. If one day you leave my island, do not forget that it is also yours. This is my last wish: When I die, bury me in our maize plantation."

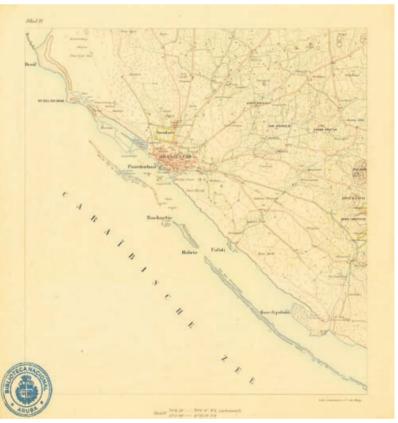
And so when the Cacique passed away, his wishes were granted and he was laid to rest in the area we now know as the Paradera Cemetery. Where he used to live, they built the Paradera Church.

And that is the tale of what inspired the Aruba name. In the generations that lived or travelled back and forth to the island, there were many familiar names*, like Guadiriki, a warrior who was there when the island got discovered and his son, whom he called Huliba; Corobori and his children, Corodori, Camacuri and Turibana, Masiduri; and Malmok, the 13-year-old boy who alerted the Cacique when the Caribes attacked.

Familiar names: all these names are familiar to Arubans, as these are the names of places and plants on the island.

Source: Un storia di e Indjan Arua (A story of the Indian Arua) by Adolf (Dufi) Kock









CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

46 Fill with

48 Newark's

county

joy 47 Vacant

DOWN

1 Hailed

vehicle

nickname

2 Lincoln

3 Go bad

4 Helpful

5 Real

6 Ugly

software

features

bargain

building

7 Smoked

salmon

- **ACROSS** 1 Supermarket aids
- 6 Select group 11 Con-
- cerning 12 Alpine trill
- 13 Entertainer Midler
- 14 Business bigwigs 15 Feedbag
- fill **17** That woman
- 18 Valuable item passed down
- **22** Old Atlanta arena 23 Radio
- button 27 Pocket breads
- 29 Ham it up 30 Furry
- wraps **32** Possesses
- 33 Looks down on
- 35 Scrooge cry 38 Convoy
- truck **39** San Antonio
- mission 41 Canary homes
- 45 More certain

ANNEX ATWAR TENET WEAVE THEMOB KEY LIE REEFERS TEXANS BORNEO MANAGER STOVES PRIMA LEMON I D E A S N O R S E ENEMY GREED

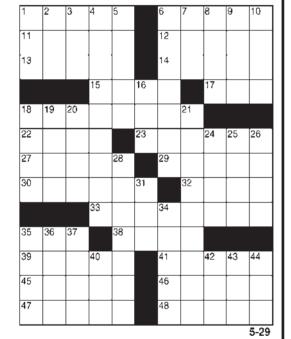
- **18** Brewing ingredient **19** Give
- 20 A fan of 21 Some D.C.
- 24 Boars' mates 8 Midmonth 25 Sicilian

peak

- day 9 Computer fixer
- **10** Different 16 Spinning toy

- 34 Game show host 35 Diamond off corner 36 Home-
- coming attendee landmarks 37 Angel's instrument 40 Convened 42 Neon or
- 26 Exam 43 Summer in France 28 Kind of 44 Kinsey overload 31 Take in topic

helium



AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-29 **CRYPTOOUOTE**

ADUDX TKDCG NΤ ΚA J B D

BPLZA YNATCKYJ ENMZE

LPYB NMDG WV EN LZAV JN EN

TDM. — MKAEJNA YBPXYBKCC Cryptoquote: YOUR EDUCATION IS A DRESS REHEARSAL FOR A LIFE THAT IS YOURS TO LEAD. — NORA EPHRON

Cruise ship Schedule: May 20 - 30 2025

		ARR	DEPT BERTH	
TUE 20	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	07.00	16.00 B	1
	CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00 C	1
				1 -
WED 21	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	22.00 C	1
	OASIS OF THE SEAS	08.00	21.00 I	1
	FREEWINDS	06.00	**** E	1
SUN 25	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30 E	-
TUE 27	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00 C	1
		00.00		
WED 28	FREEWINDS	06.00	**** E	1
FRI 30	ISLAND PRINCESS	07.00	18.00 C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings









The penny costs nearly 4 cents to make. Here's how much the US spends on minting its other coins

By WYATTE GRANTHAM-**PHILIPS**

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The impending "death" of the U.S. penny has spotlighted the coin's own price tag nearly 4 cents to make and distribute each, or quadruple its value.

Months after President Donald Trump called on his administration to cease penny production, the U.S. Mint announced this week that it had made its final order of penny blanks and plans to stop making new 1 cent coins after those run out. Coin production costs vary thanks to different raw metals used, complexity of their designs, labor needed and more. Many of those expenses have been on the rise and the penny isn't the only coin entering our wallets today that costs more to make than it's worth (enter the nickel debate).

Here's a rundown of U.S. Mint production costs from the government's latest fiscal year.

Cost of the penny

Each penny costs nearly 4 cents or \$0.0369, to be exact for the U.S. Mint to make and distribute.

In total, America's coin manufacturer said shipped more than 3.17 billion pennies throughout its 2024 fiscal year. That's notably less pennies than it sent the year prior (when nearly 4.14 billion 1-cent pieces went out) but circulating shipment for all coins was down about 44% overall. The Mint often changes its new circulation based on public demand and seasonal trends.

At the same time, the penny's "unit cost" has gone up in recent years. The nearly 4 cent price tag is up 20.2% from the Mint's 2023 report, when a penny cost just over 3 cents.

Cost of the nickel

Each nickel costs nearly 14 cents (\$0.1378) to make and distribute. That price tag is nearly triple the fivecent coin's buying power today.



A lone penny is illuminated in a bin of completed pennies at the U.S. Mint in Denver on Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2007.

Associated Press

The unit costs for both the penny and the nickel have remained above face value for 19 consecutive years, the Mint noted in its latest annual report. And, like the penny, the nickel has also seen recent price jumps with the latest 14 cent cost up 19.4% from the 2023 fiscal year, when its cost sat under 12 cents. U.S. Mint reported shipping 202 million nickels over its 2024 fiscal year, down from nearly 1.42 billion sent out the year prior.

Cost of the dime

Each dime costs nearly 6 cents (\$0.0576) to make and distribute.

Downtown

That represents more than half of the 10 cent coin's buying power. And the cost of producing and distributing the dime increased 8.7% over the last

In total, the U.S. Mint reported shipping 840 million dimes for its 2024 fiscal year down from nearly 2.67 billion the year beforehand.

Cost of the quarter

How to reach us!

TEDAY

BENDIA

The quarter costs nearly 15 cents (\$0.1468) to make and distribute.

That's also more than half of the 25 cent coin's buying power today. The quarter's unit cost has increased by 26.2% since the Mint's 2023

report, when its price tag was closer to 12 cents.

U.S. Mint said it shipped more than 1.6 billion quarters in the 2024 fiscal year, down from about 2.27 billion the year prior.



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Centre for Diabetes Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118





Apple has had few incentives in the past to start making iPhones in U.S.

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE AP Technology Writer SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Lashing out at Apple's plans to make most of its U.S. iPhones in India, President Donald Trump on Friday threatened to slap a 25% tariff on the popular device unless the tech giant starts building the product in its home country a move that still seems unlikely to happen any time soon, if ever.

Apple for decades has been building most of its devices in China, where it has invested tens of billions dollars massive factories that rely on a vast network of local suppliers. The company's reliance on a crucial pipeline outside the U.S. thrust the technology trendsetter into the crosshairs of Trump's trade war. In response to Trump's tussle with China, Apple CEO Tim Cook said earlier this month that most iPhones sold in the U.S. during the March-June period would come from India. Although Trump in late April decided to temporarily exempt the iPhone and other electronics from most of his initial tariffs, Cook said the trade war would end up costing Apple an additional \$900 million during the March-June period.

After Trump initially unveiled his sweeping tariffs in early April, industry analysts estimated the fees would drive up the cost of a \$1,200 iPhone made in China to \$1,500. That might sound steep, but most analysts believe if Apple somehow could suddenly start making iPhones in the U.S., prices for the devices would soar to at least \$2,000 and possibly might rise as high as \$3,500.

The disincentives for Apple shifting its production domestically include a complex supply chain that Cook began to engineer during the 1990s while he was working for his predecessor, company cofounder Steve Jobs, who died in 2011. It would take several years and cost billions of dollars to build new



The new iPhone 16 is displayed during an announcement of new products at Apple headquarters Monday, Sept. 9, 2024, in Cupertino, Calif.

Associated Press

plants in the U.S. Combined with current economic forces, the price of an iPhone could triple, threatening to torpedo sales of Apple's marquee product, which generated revenue of \$201 billion during the company's last fiscal year. "The concept of making iPhones in the U.S. is a nonstarter," asserted Wedbush Securities analyst Dan Ives, reflecting a widely held view in the investment community that tracks Apple's every move. He estimated that the current \$1,000 price tag for an iPhone made in China, or India, would soar to more than \$3,000 if production shifted to the U.S. And he believes that moving production domestically likely couldn't be done until, at the earliest, 2028.

"Price points would move so dramatically, it's hard to comprehend."

In a Friday research note, Ives predicted Cook would engage in a "game of negotiations" with Trump that would spare the iPhone from the 25% tariffs.

Planning for the future is also becoming more difficult for Apple and other technology companies amid the upheaval being caused by the rapid rise of artificial intelligence. As Al becomes more sophisticated, the technology may spawn a forthcoming wave of hands-free and screen-free devices that diminish the demand for smartphones.

"You may not need an iPhone 10 years from now, as crazy as it sounds," Apple executive Eddy Cue said earlier this month during a trial about the U.S. Justice Department's proposed breakup of Google for running an illegal monopoly in search.

Apple didn't immediately respond to a request for comment Friday. On a quarterly earnings call earlier in May, Cook told investors that tariffs had a "limited impact" on the company in the March quarter because it was able to optimize its supply chain.

But Cook warned that it is "very difficult" to predict beyond June "because I'm not sure what will happen with tariffs."

The big question is how long Apple might be willing to hold the line on its current prices if Trump's threatened tolls become too much to bear and consumers are asked to shoulder some of the burden. Even without an escalation in tariffs, many analysts are predicting Apple will raise iPhone prices this autumn when the latest models are typically released a prospect that could prod consumers to splurge on an upgrade this summer.

One of the main reasons that Apple has had wiggle room to hold the line on its current iPhone pricing is because the company continues to reap huge profit margins from the revenue generated by subscriptions and other services tied to its product, said Forrester Research analyst Dipanjan Chatterjee. That division, which collected \$96 billion in revenue during Apple's last fiscal year, remains untouched by Trump's tariffs.

"Apple can absorb some of the tariff-induced cost increases without significant financial impact, at least in the short term," Chatterjee said.

But now Apple is facing a significant decline in its service revenue after a federal judge recently issued an order prohibiting it from collecting commissions on transactions within iPhone apps that are processed on other payment systems other than its own. Unless Apple prevails in an appeal, the decision could cost the company billions of dollars annually.

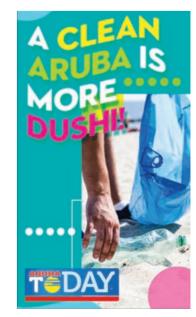
Apple tried to appease Trump in February by announcing plans to spend \$500 billion and hire 20,000 people in the U.S. through 2028, but none of it was tied to making an iPhone domestically.

Instead, Apple pledged to fund a Houston data center for computer servers powering artificial intelligence a technology the company is expanding into as part of an industrywide craze.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick also predicted tariffs would force a manufacturing shift during an April 6 appearance on a CBS News program. "The army of millions and millions of human beings screwing in little screws to make iPhones, that kind of thing is going to come to America," Lutnick said.

But during a 2017 appearance at a conference in China, Cook expressed doubt about whether the U.S. labor pool had enough workers with the vocational skills required to do the painstaking and tedious work that Lutnick was discussing.

"In the U.S. you could have a meeting of tooling engineers and I'm not sure we could fill the room," Cook said. "In China, you could fill multiple football fields."



Chet Holmgren to face hometown team when Thunder visit Timberwolves in Game 3 of West finals

By CLIFF BRUNT **AP Sports Writer**

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) -

Minneapolis native Chet Holmgren could block his hometown team from winning an NBA championship.

Holmgren, a 7-foot-1 forward, has helped the Oklahoma City Thunder take a 2-0 lead over the Minnesota Timberwolves in the Western Conference finals. He scored 22 points in Game 2, a 118-103 Thunder win. Now, he will play Game 3 on Saturday in the same building where he won his fourth state title for Minnehaha Academy in his final high school game.

"Anytime I go home and play, it's great to be able to play in front of friends, family, old coaches, old teammates," Holmgren said. "I never take it for granted, and it's definitely come full circle."

The Timberwolves weren't as good as they are now during Holmgren's childhood they missed the playoffs every year from 2005 to 2017.

"Growing up, Minnesota was never in the playoffs, so that atmosphere was never really there in the city," he said. "So I'm sure it's insane



Oklahoma City Thunder forward Chet Holmaren reacts after a play against the Minnesota Timberwolves during the second half of Game 2 of an NBA basketball Western Conference Finals playoff series Thursday, May 22, 2025, in Oklahoma City.

Associated Press

right now."

Holmgren was a local celebrity as one of the nation's top high school prospects. His high school coach, Lance Johnson, said it got crazy at times.

"We would go on road trips and high school and gyms would be packed," he said. "There were games where we had him sneak him out of back doors. We pulled up in buses and there were

people waiting to shake his hand." Johnson, of course, shares that love for Holmgren. He said he will be conflicted heading into the weekend.

"I love Chet, I cheer for Chet, I love the Timberwolves, I cheer for the Timberwolves," Johnson said. "It's a nice, soft cushion to fall on if the Timberwolves possibly lose that Chet wins and OKC advances so I can continue to watch him."

Holmgren might have rubbed a few Timberwolves fans the wrong way when he dunked, then stared down Minnesota's Donte DiVincenzo in Game 2 and got called for a technical for taunting. Still, Johnson said he expects that the reception for Holmgren will be warm. "I'd be surprised if he wasn't cheered for,"

Johnson said. "He's done nothing but make Minnesota people proud. He plays the game with a great attitude." Johnson said Holmgren, though slightly built, has always been tough. Holmgren played through a groin injury his junior year in high school, then got checked out and he had to miss a month.

After a successful year at Gonzaga, Holmgren was the No. 2 pick in the 2022 draft, but he missed his entire first year after breaking his foot in the offseason. He recovered to be runner-up in the rookie of the year balloting the next season. Holmgren was off to a hot start this season when he broke a pelvic bone and missed 50 games. Johnson fully expected Holmgren to recover and play well, and he did. He's averaging 16.2 points, 9.1 rebounds and 2.0 blocks in the playoffs. "He's been so resilient throughout all his life that I knew he was going to come back," Johnson said. "And he's now playing better than he ever has."

Holmgren said it's taken some work to fit back into a team that was winning without him, but his teammates made it easier.

Del Toro adds 5 seconds to his Giro lead and Pedersen wins his fourth stage

VICENZA, Italy (AP) — Mexican rider Isaac Del Toro keeps on adding to his Giro d'Italia lead even if it's just a few seconds per day.

Del Toro's third-place finish in the 13th stage on Friday, which had a short but steep uphill finale, extended his lead over UAE Team Emirates teammate Juan Ayuso by five seconds.

Danish rider Mads Pedersen claimed his fourth stage 1:20 behind, and Primoz Rowin of the race with a burst of acceleration up to the Del Toro became the first co, with an average gradi-Monte Berico sanctuary.

Wout van Aert crossed second with the same time as Pedersen, and Del Toro finished third, two seconds behind but three seconds ahead of all the other overall contenders.

For the second straight day, Del Toro also picked up a two-second bonus during an intermediate sprint with 10 kilometers to go, while Ayuso picked up four seconds.

In the overall standings, Del Toro leads Ayuso by 38 seconds, with Antonio Tiberi 1:18 back in third.

Simon Yates was fourth, glic fifth, 1:35 behind.

on Sunday when he fin-meters at 12%. ished second.

"All the riders from the top 20 are crazily strong. They The mostly flat 14th stage are Grand Tours winners, on Saturday follows a podium finishers, etc. and 195-kilometer

I'm the new guy here," Del Toro said. "Maybe on paper I'm not the favorite but I have to be strong and listen to the guys in the team."

He's riding his second Grand Tour after placing 36th in the Spanish Vuelta last year.

The 180-kilometer (112mile) route from Rovigo to Vicenza was mostly flat until the finale, which featured two ascents to Monte Beri-Mexican to lead the Giro ent of 7.1% with the finishing

> Pedersen also won Stages 1, 3 and 5.

(121-mile)

route from Treviso over the border into Slovenia with a finish in Nova Gorica. Then on Sunday, there's a big

climb up Monte Grappa at the stage's midpoint.

The Giro ends in Rome on June 1.



Denmark's Pedersen Mads of Lidl-Trek Team, left, competes during the 13th stage of the Giro d'Italia cycling race from Rovigo to Vicenza, Italy, Friday, May 23, 2025.



Rafael Nadal's absence from the 2025 French Open changes the tournament

By HOWARD FENDRICH **AP Tennis Writer**

PARIS (AP) — As the French Open enters a new, post-Rafa, era this year, there are a couple of prevailing sentiments among tennis players.

One is: It's a shame the world won't get to see the King of Clay, as Rafael Nadal came to be called, ply his unique brand of topspin-heavy relentlessness on the crushed red brick of Roland-Garros, where he won a record 14 of his 22 Grand Slam titles.

The other, expressed by men who would love to get a chance at carving their own bit of history at the place, goes like this: Whew, it sure will be nice not to have that guy looming in the bracket now that the 38-year-old Spaniard is retired.

Players no longer need to worry about Nadal at the French Open

"Luckily or unluckily I never got to play him in Roland-Garros," said American Tommy Paul, a 2023 Australian Open semifinalist currently ranked 12th.

"It's nice to not have to worry about him, I guess," Paul added with a laugh. "That's the main thing that comes to my mind."

Players repeatedly used the word "different" to de-



Spain's Rafael Nadal bites the trophy after winning the final match against Norway's Casper Ruud in three sets, 6-3, 6-3, 6-0, at the French Open tennis tournament in Roland Garros stadium in Paris, France, June 5, 2022.

Associated Press

scribe what it'll be like without Nadal around.

"It'll be strange for the fans, above all," said top-10 player Lorenzo Musetti, an Italian who reached the semifinals at Wimbledon and earned an Olympic bronze medal in 2024. "But the history he made in Paris will never be forgotten."

Nadal's 14 French Open titles are a record for any **Grand Slam tournament**

To be sure, Nadal's dominance in Paris was unprecedented.

defending "Impossible," champion Carlos Alcaraz said, "to repeat."

Nadal collected more championships than any other player at one major tennis tournament, spanning from his first, which arrived two days after his 19th birthday in his 2005 debut, to his last at age 36 in 2022 on a painful foot that required nerve-dulling injections. He went 112-4 overall in the event.

reflected in his head-tohead records against the other two members of the Big Three of men's tennis, Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer. Nadal went 8-2 against Djokovic in the French Open accounting for about 15% of all of Djokovic's lifetime Grand Slam losses anywhere and 6-0 against Federer.

"What a legend. What an ambassador for the sport," Australian player Thana-One measure of just how si Kokkinakis said about good Nadal was there is Nadal. "One of the great-

est athletes ever not just in tennis."

Nadal will be honored by a ceremony at the French Open on Sunday

He certainly left his indelible mark in Paris. A largerthan-life statue was erected near an entrance to the tournament arounds in 2021, while he was still active; a ceremony honoring him will be held Sunday in the main stadium, Court Philippe-Chatrier, after the first three matches of Day 1. One would imagine that Nadal will be treated to the sort of applause and chants of "Ra-fa!" he heard often, including when he played for the final time at the site at the Paris Olympics last year and left describing the "unforgettable feeling and emotions" he enjoyed. And no one who ever faced him, or watched him, at the French Open will forget his lefty whip of a forehand or the way he stood so far back to return serve or the way he chased every ball. Or the way the arena announcer would list off all of his ever-growing list of championship years before a match. Or the way Nadal would bite his trophies after winning one, something Naomi Osaka emulated after claiming her first clay-court title just last month.

Twins bring Carlos Correa back from concussion for series opener vs. Royals; Buxton not quite ready

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Minnesota Twins shortstop Carlos Correa passed concussion protocol and was reinstated from the 7-day injured list ahead of a three-game series against Kansas City that began Friday night.

Correa collided with center fielder Byron Buxton in pursuit of a shallow fly ball on May 15 at Baltimore, forcing both players out of that game.

"The ball was right in the sun for me, so I was like angling on the side and then when I went to make my move to get into the sun and catch it, that's when he called me off," Correa said. "So I moved out of the way and it happened that he caught it and he moved the same way. ... It was just one of those where it was a perfect storm and everything lined up for us to collide."

Correa added that he didn't know what to expect in the recovery process.

"The first couple of days it was definitely weird because it was the first one I've ever had," he said. "But then I started feeling better the fourth, fifth day and here we are."

Buxton was also placed on the 7-day injured list and into concussion protocol. Twins head athletic trainer Nick Paparesta said Wednesday that Buxton was a little bit behind Correa in his recovery, with a previous concussion adding more caution to the process. A team spokesman said that Buxton was ramping up his baseball activities on Friday.



Minnesota Twins' Carlos Correa (4) and Byron Buxton, right, celebrate their team's victory over the Baltimore Orioles after the first baseball game of a doubleheader, Wednesday, May 14, 2025, in Baltimore.